

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 PRS-01 PA-04 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 CPR-02 DRC-01 /061 W

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R 170643Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3199

INFO USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, OGEN, AS

SUBJ: VISIT OF ADMIRAL CLAREY FOR AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN  
(CORAL SEA) WEEK.

SUMMARY: VISIT OF ADMIRAL AND MRS. CLAREY WAS LOW  
KEY AND SUCCESSFUL IN THE LIMITED CONTEXT OF NOT  
BREAKING A LONG TRADITION OF VISITS AND SHOWING  
AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION THEY ARE NOT FOR-  
GOTTEN BY USG. ADMIRAL SUCCESSFULLY KEPT OUT OF  
AUSTRALIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

A FULL SCHEDULE WAS WORKED OUT WITH VISITS TO  
SYDNEY, CANBERRA, BRISBANE, MELBOURNE AND HOBART  
IN THAT ORDER.

THAT USG RESPONDED TO URGENT PLEADING OF GOA FOR  
VISITOR WAS APPRECIATED BY GOA, AND DESPITE HEAVY  
ELECTION DEMANDS FOR VIP AIRCRAFT A PLANE WAS  
ALWAYS AVAILABLE AS WERE CARS AND ALL FACILITIES.

FACT THAT USG HAD LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO SEND VISITOR IN  
VIEW OF PRESSURE BY GOA WAS NOT FULLY APPRECIATED BY  
AAA, THOUGH LAST MINUTE ARRANGEMENTS DID RAISE SOME  
QUESTIONS AS TO WHY IT WAS ON AGAIN OFF AGAIN.

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THIS YEAR NEW SOUTH WALES, WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA OFFICIALLY CALLED THEIR WEEK "AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP WEEK" AND BATTLE ITSELF WAS PLAYED DOWN. OTHER STATES ARE ADOPTING THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN NAME VICE CORAL SEA, WITH EXCEPTION OF QUEENSLAND.

MEDIA COVERAGE WAS SPARSE, BUT CENOTAPH CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON IN SYDNEY COVERED BY TV. WREATH LAYING AND ADMIRAL'S REMARKS THAT TO ENSURE PEACE - "WE MUST BE PREPARED AND CAPABLE OF DEFENDING OUR COUNTRIES. NO NATION CAN DO THIS ALONE; EACH MUST HELP ONE ANOTHER; ALL MUST GIVE SOMETHING TO THE COMMON CAUSE OF THE PRESERVATION OF THE SOCIETY WHICH THE DEMOCRATIC WORLD HAS CREATED" - WERE CARRIED NATIONWIDE.

ADMIRAL AND HIS WIFE WERE IDEAL GUESTS. HE STRUCK A HEARTFELT NOTE WHEN HE RECOUNTED EXPERIENCES SUCH AS BEING HOSPITALIZED IN BRISBANE A FEW HOURS BEFORE HIS SUBMARINE, USS AMBER JACK, SAILED (NEVER TO RETURN) AND WAS LOST WITH ALL HANDS. HIS REMINDING AUSTRALIANS OF THEIR REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S DEATH BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES TO THE OLDER GENERATION. NO PRESS CONFERENCES WERE SCHEDULED AND REMARKS TO PRESS WHO MET HIM AT MELBOURNE WERE CONFINED TO PERSONAL EXPERIENCES.

WHITLAM PERSONALLY ANNOUNCED (WITH SOME SATISFACTION) THAT THERE WOULD BE A US CORAL SEA VISITOR IN THE TRADITION OF CONTINUING CLOSE U.S.-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS, BUT ALP OTHERWISE REFRAINED FROM EXPLOITING CORAL SEA EVENTS POLITICALLY, AND ADMIRAL CAREFULLY AVOIDED ISSUES RELATED TO ELECTION.

COMMENT: VISIT WAS SHORT, BUT AAA UNDERSTOOD PROBLEM OF ADMIRAL'S COMMITMENTS. PERHAPS THE BEST THING GAINED WAS THE ENCOURAGEMENT THAT THE APPEARANCE OF AN AMERICAN VISITOR GIVES TO THE AAA ORGANIZATIONS WHO GET A FEELING OF BEING NEGLECTED (DESPITE VISITS BY AMBASSADOR AND OTHER OFFICERS) IF NO ANNUAL SPEAKER COMES DURING CORAL SEA WEEK. PERTH AND NEWCASTLE ALWAYS FEEL LEFT OUT WHEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VISITOR OMITS THEIR CITIES. THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, PERTH HAD TAKEN A DECISION TO PLACE CORAL SEA IN THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND HAS SUCCESSFULLY REDUCED THE AVERAGE AGE OF PARTICIPANTS TO THEIR 30'S RATHER THAN THEIR 50'S. MELBOURNE ALSO HAS IMPRESSIVELY ACTIVE JUNIOR AAA WITH 500 MEMBERS, ALTHOUGH AAA CHAPTERS CONTINUE TO COMPRISE RELATIVE SOLID AND ECONOMIC ELITE (AND FEW ALP SUPPORTERS).

THE FACT THAT GOA PRESSURED US TO SEND VISITOR THIS  
YEAR SUGGEST IT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SIMILAR  
FACILITIES IN FUTURE; THERE HAD BEEN SOME QUESTION AS  
TO HOW ALP WOULD REACT TO ASSSITING ANNUAL VISITS.  
THIS GIVES THE USG MORE LATITUDE IN CONSIDERING FUTURE  
GUEST OF HONOR FOR AAA WEEK, AND EMBASSY WILL REVIEW  
ENTIRE QUESTION WITH DEPARTMENT FAR IN ADVANCE OF NEXT  
MAY. FULL SCHEDULE AND CLIPPINGS OF CLAREY VISIT  
BEING SENT BY POUCH.  
GREEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** OVIP, OGEN, AS, (CLAREY)  
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